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HARMONIZED SYSTEM TARIFF SCHEDULES NOW ON SALE FROM GATT

The complete tariff schedules of countries which have introduced the "Harmonized System" of customs classification can now be purchased from the GATT.

The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System began to operate from 1 January 1988. It has replaced a variety of different customs classification systems which, for many years, have complicated trade and frontier formalities. The new system also reflects technological changes that have taken place over recent years and the increasing diversification of trade. It allows a far greater degree of detail in trade statistics than was possible previously - a matter of considerable importance in trade negotiations as well as to the conduct of trade itself.

The following are among the countries which have now introduced the Harmonized System: Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Zimbabwe, as well as the European Economic Community. To facilitate the introduction of the system, these countries negotiated with their trading partners where conversion from their previous customs classification system entailed changes to the value of bound GATT tariffs.

The Harmonized System tariff schedules of the countries mentioned above are now available. They amount to some 7,000 pages and cost Swiss Francs 2,400. This price will also include, when available, the schedules

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for the United States, Czechoslovakia, Thailand, South Africa and Iceland, all of which are expected to introduce the new system shortly. The complete collection will be contained in 20 loose-leaf binders and will consist of a total of about 10,000 pages.

The tariff schedules of individual countries can be purchased separately at prices dependent upon the number of pages involved.

Orders should be sent to: GATT Secretariat, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland.

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